

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 1 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of
Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Estonia, the Security Council plans to hold a high-level open Arria-formula meeting by videoconference on 8 May 2020, on the theme “Seventy-five years from the end of the Second World War on European soil – lessons learned for preventing future atrocities, responsibility of the Security Council”. In that regard, Estonia has prepared the attached concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Sven Jürgenson**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 1 May 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Arria-formula meeting on the theme “Seventy-five years from the end of the Second World War on European soil – lessons learned for preventing future atrocities, responsibility of the Security Council”, to be held on 8 May 2020

Introduction

1. As the rotating President of the Security Council in May 2020, Estonia will hold a high-level Arria-formula meeting on the theme “Seventy-five years from the end of the Second World War on European soil – lessons learned for preventing future atrocities, responsibility of the Security Council”.

Objectives

2. At the high-level meeting, we will mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War on European soil. The debate offers an opportunity to discuss the merits of the post-war order. The aim will be not only to identify lessons learned from the past, but also to highlight challenges for our future. The debate will also serve as a forum for evaluating the current security threats posed by conflicts in Europe and beyond.

Background

3. World order and peace are not self-evident – this is sadly often understood only in hindsight. Gradual deterioration of the world order can result in cataclysms in the blink of an eye, and it is in these conditions that the worst in humanity can manifest itself. The question is not what will bring down the world order as we know it, but what can possibly hold it up. The Security Council should lead here by example.

4. When it comes to maintaining international peace and security and preventing atrocities, Europe in general has done well: peace in Europe will be 75 years old if its date of birth is taken to be the end of the Second World War in Europe. Peace and prosperity in Europe have endured because they have been nurtured and supported by democratic principles, good governance, strong institutions and multilateral cooperation, as well as commonly agreed norms and stable alliance structures.

5. Despite new and emerging issues, traditional security challenges have not disappeared in Europe. We still witness the violation of the most important norm of the Charter of the United Nations: the prohibition of the use of force. The meeting could also focus on the role of the Council in situations where existing agreements are not followed. Here, the Council can lead by example by building a framework for conflict prevention and stability in modern times. The ongoing coronavirus outbreak has an effect on all of us, as well as on the multilateral system. Multilateralism, with the United Nations at its core, is as important as ever. It is an opportune moment for the United Nations to lead the discussion on how to safeguard international crisis management and conflict resolution mechanisms during an era of global crisis.

Format

6. The high-level Arria-formula meeting under the presidency of Estonia will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, 8 May 2020, by videoconference. Further technical details will follow.

7. The debate will be chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, Urmas Reinsalu.

Briefers

- Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
- President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen (to be confirmed)
- Professor of History at Yale University, Timothy Snyder

8. Representatives of States not members of the Security Council will be invited to make interventions of no longer than three minutes, focusing on the points above.

9. The briefers are invited to speak for up to 10 minutes.
